

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 14, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 28 with the word “Some” and ends on page 15, line 5 with the word “processing” with the following amended paragraph:

Some embodiments of glasses can also be obtained by other techniques, such as: laser spin melting with free fall cooling, Taylor wire technique, plasmatron technique, hammer and anvil technique, centrifugal quenching, air gun splat cooling, single roller and twin roller quenching, roller-plate quenching, and pendant drop melt extraction (see, e.g., Rapid Solidification of Ceramics, Brockway ~~et al.~~<sup>et. al.</sup>, Metals And Ceramics Information Center, A Department of Defense Information Analysis Center, Columbus, OH, January, 1984). Some embodiments of glasses may also be obtained by other techniques, such as: thermal (including flame or laser or plasma-assisted) pyrolysis of suitable precursors, physical vapor synthesis (PVS) of metal precursors and mechanochemical processing.

On page 22, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 24 with the word “Typically” and ends on line 31 with the word “1979” with the following amended paragraph:

Typically, glass-ceramics are stronger than the glasses from which they are formed. Hence, the strength of the material may be adjusted, for example, by the degree to which the glass is converted to crystalline ceramic phase(s). Alternatively, or in addition, the strength of the material may also be affected, for example, by the number of nucleation sites created, which may in turn be used to affect the number, and in turn the size of the crystals of the crystalline phase(s). For additional details regarding forming glass-ceramics, see, for ~~example~~<sup>example</sup> Glass-Ceramics, P.W. McMillan, Academic Press, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1979.

On page 29, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 12 with the word “Additional” and ends on line 21 with the word “reference” with the following amended paragraph:

Additional details regarding embodiments of ceramics (including methods of making and using the same) comprising at least  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , REO, and at least one of  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  or  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  may be found, for example, in application having U.S. Serial No. 10/666615, ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (Attorney Docket No. 58354US002)~~, filed the same date as the instant application, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Additional details regarding embodiments of ceramics (including methods of making and using the same) comprising at least two of (a)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , (b) REO, or (c) at least one of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  or  $\text{HfO}_2$ , and at least one of  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  or  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  may be found, for example, in application having U.S. Serial No. 10/666212, ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (Attorney Docket No. 58807US002)~~, filed the same date as the instant application, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.